

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 044903  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY PM:DCGOMPERT/PM/ISP:JHHAWES:BLH  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
EUR-MR VEST  
NSC - MR. BARTHOLOMEW  
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----111311 220035Z /70

O 220021Z FEB 78 ZFF6  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 044903

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG

SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD: MESSAGE FROM THE  
SECRETARY

1. FOR BRUSSELS AND THE HAGUE: AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE ARE  
REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE  
TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SIMONET AND MINISTER OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DER KLAUW RESPECTIVELY. LETTER EX-  
PLAINS US INTENT TO RAISE ENHANCED RADIATION ISSUE AT NAC  
FEBRUARY 24TH, LAYS OUT US THREE-PART SCENARIO FOR RESOLVING  
THE QUESTION, AND SEEKS BELGIAN AND DUTCH SUPPORT FOR OUR  
COURSE OF ACTION.

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2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. MINISTER: THE ISSUE OF ENHANCED  
RADIATION WEAPONS HAS BEEN TROUBLING THE ALLIANCE SINCE LAST  
SUMMER. I BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO RESOLVE  
THE QUESTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE PROPOSE TO INITIATE A DISCUSSION OF ENHANCED RADI-

ATION AT THE NAC ON FEBRUARY 24TH IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
PLANNED CONSULTATION ON SALT ISSUES. WHILE WE WILL NOT  
BE SEEKING A DECISION AT THAT TIME, WE HOPE TO LAY  
OUT OUR THINKING AND BEGIN A PROCESS WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN  
ALLIANCE POSITION AT AN EARLY SUBSEQUENT MEETING. THE COURSE

WE PLAN TO PROPOSE IN THE NAC CONSISTS OF THREE ELEMENTS  
ALL INTERLINKED. FIRST, THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO AN-  
NOUNCE ITS OWN DECISION TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED  
RADIATION WEAPONS, LOOKING TO THEIR DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE  
IN ABOUT TWO YEARS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE US WOULD STATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO  
FOREGO DEPLOYMENT OF ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS IN EUROPE  
IF THE SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO FOREGO DEPLOYMENT OF THE  
SS-20.

THIRD, BUT ALSO AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD LOOK FOR COL-  
LECTIVE SUPPORT BY THE ALLIANCE IN CALLING ON THE SOVIETS  
TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO THE ARMS CONTROL PRO-  
POSAL AND INDICATING ACCEPTANCE OF EVENTUAL DEPLOYMENT OF  
ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER IF THE  
SOVIETS FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE ARMS CONTROL OFFER.

BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE, I WANTED TO ALERT  
YOU TO OUR THINKING. I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH  
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THE ENHANCED RADIATION ISSUE HAS RAISED FOR YOU. I DO NOT  
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE AMELIORATED BY  
FURTHER DELAY OR BY ABANDONING A WEAPON THAT CAN STRENGTH-  
EN OUR PEOPLES' SECURITY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS HAVE ELECTED  
TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT IN THE  
COURSE OF ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT  
OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE QUESTION. IN THE  
MEANTIME I WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON  
THIS.

(FOR THE HAGUE: I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN  
APRIL.)

WITH BEST REGARDS. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

3. FOR BONN: PLEASE INFORM FRG THAT THE SECRETARY HAS  
SENT THESE MESSAGES. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, NPT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT, CAT-B  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** P840142-2286  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE PM  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Subject:** ENHANCEMENT RADIATION WARHEAD: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** MNUC, PPDC, US, BE, NL, GE, NATO, NAC, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (SIMONET, HENRI), (VAN DER KLAUW)  
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